

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [27] with the following amended paragraph:

[27] In another aspect of the invention, material 2 may or may not have elastic properties. Material 2 may be a fabric type material utilized in apparel items such as shoes or bags. The flexible and extensible closure apparatus 1 for use in a shoe may secure the shoe to a person's foot. For example, the flexible and extensible closure apparatus 1 may be used to connect a first side of a shoe to a second side of the shoe directly over a tongue of the shoe. As illustrated in Figure 1A, the flexible and extensible closure apparatus 1 may be used for use in a bag, such as a purse, may to provide for the secure closing of the purse to prevent items from falling out of the purse, or unauthorized removal of items from the purse. In addition, the closure apparatus may be used in other items of apparel 1500 such as shirts, pants, and skirts.

Please replace paragraph [49] with the following amended paragraph:

[49] Figure 10 and 10A illustrates a slider apparatus 150 that may assist a user in interlocking or separating a first portion 3 (Figure 1) and a second portion 4 (Figure 1) of the flexible and extensible closure apparatus 1. As shown in Figure 10, a slider apparatus 150 may comprise a top plate 151 and a bottom plate 152. The top plate 151 and bottom plate 152 may contain slots 153. The slots 153 may be positioned to receive the cylindrical posts 124 of the diamond shaped element 120 (Figure 9). As further illustrated in Figure 10, slider apparatus 150 may also comprise rails such as bottom rails 154 and top rails (not shown). These rails may be positioned to allow the top slot 125 and bottom slot 126 to ride along a bottom rail 154 and a top rail (not shown). The top plate 151 of the slider apparatus 150 may slide along a top surface of both first portion 3 and second portion 4 of the flexible and extensible closure apparatus. Similarly, the bottom plate 152 of the slider apparatus may slide along a bottom surface of both the top surface 3 and the second portion 4 of the flexible and extensible closure apparatus 1. As top plate 151 and bottom plate 152 slide along the first portion 3 and second portion 4 of the flexible and extensible closure apparatus 1, the diamond shaped elements are interlocked. For example, Figure

10A illustrates the insertion of diamond shaped elements 120 of Figure 9 into the slider apparatus to join at least the inner elements of both the diamond shaped elements 120. The diamond shaped elements 120 are inserted into the slider apparatus as shown by arrow 1007 of Figure 10A. The interlocking of the diamond shaped elements may be initiated at one end of the second portion 4 and continue along the length of the second portion 4 until the opposite end of second portion 4 is reached. In addition, the interlocking of the first portion 3 and second portion 4 may be terminated at any point along the length of the flexible and extensible closure apparatus 1 and can be initiated at separate ends or multiple points along the length of the flexible and extensible closure apparatus 1.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [12]:

[12.1] Figure 1A illustrates an elevational view of a flexible and extensible closure apparatus attached for use in an item of apparel in accordance with the present invention;

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [21]:

[21.1] Figure 10A illustrates another aspect of a slider apparatus for the flexible and extensible closure apparatus in accordance with the present invention.